



Colonial Pipeline CR251 Rupture Pelham, Shelby County, Alabama Situation Report #7

November 6, 2016

1800

NRC #1162982

INCIDENT DESCRIPTION

On Monday, October 31 at approximately 1450 CDT, a pipeline accident occurred in Helena, Alabama, in which one worker died and four others were seriously injured. The 36-inch diameter pipeline carrying gasoline, operated by Colonial Pipeline, ruptured during maintenance operations. At 1656 hours, Colonial Pipeline reported the incident to the National Response Center.

The exact amount of the release is unknown; however, Colonial Pipeline has estimated that between 3,300 and 4,000 barrels of gasoline were released. Both main pipelines were shut down. The local fire department responded and contained the fire around the ruptured site. The Alabama Forestry Commission and Shelby County Highway Department constructed an earthen berm to contain the gasoline and cut a fire break. Line 2 was restarted at 2250 hours on October 31 at a reduced rate.

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM), Alabama Emergency Management Agency (EMA), Shelby County EMA, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), US Department of Interior (DOI) Region 4, were notified. The EPA, ADEM, Colonial Pipeline, and local emergency responders have been on scene and were integrated into Unified Command (UC). All EPA, USCG GST, and START personnel will be demobilizing from the incident today, November 6, through the next operational period.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

- **ONGOING:** The PIO continues to coordinate press releases with Colonial Pipeline through the JIC.
- **ONGOING:** The NTSB assessment has transitioned to a full investigation. NTSB communications restrictions are being implemented due to the investigation. No photos of the pipe leak site or equipment at the scene when the incident occurred are to be disseminated to the public

INCIDENT MANAGEMENT AND STAFFING

EPA's integration into the Colonial Pipeline Incident Command structure has provided numerous benefits to the response and further ensured operations ran successfully. All EPA staff, USCG GST and support contractors were fully embedded into the Colonial Pipeline incident management structure throughout the response.

Current number	Number
EPA	Demobilization in progress
USCG GST	Demobilization in progress
START	Demobilization in progress
Total Response Personnel	Demobilization in progress

CURRENT RELEASE AND RECOVERY ESTIMATES

- Current Release Estimate remains unchanged at 3,300 bbl to 4,000 bbls¹
- **NEW:** Removal and replacement of the damaged section of pipeline has been completed.
- **NEW:** Restoration of service (“start up”) for the pipeline took place at 0645 EST (“pipeline time”). The shipper bulletin was released at 0830 CST.
- **NEW:** Colonial Pipeline representatives continue operations at the pipeline, including coating and backfill activities. There will be no night shift.
- **NEW:** The Transition Plan was implemented at the 0800 Situation Status Update meeting, moving the project from an emergency to the remediation phase. ADEM will take the lead on product transfer from the frac tanks and contaminated soil disposal.

CURRENT OPERATIONS

1) Environmental Sampling and Impacts

- a. Air Monitoring
 - **NEW:** CTEH will conduct air monitoring at the frac tanks during product transfer scheduled for Monday at 0900. In addition, CTEH continues to maintain a presence within operations for health and safety oversight.
 - **NEW:** CTEH continued performing 24-hour mobile air monitoring at and near the incident area, as well as at nearby homes to the northwest and southeast of the incident area overnight. No detections above site action levels have occurred since the 1600 Meeting on November 5.
 - **ONGOING:** CTEH continues to upload air sampling data to the SCRIBE database.
- b. Water/Sediment Sampling and National Resources Damage Assessment (NRDA)
 - Sampling activities have been discontinued.

2) Local Response Actions

- The air space restriction to 1,500 feet and a 1.5 mile radius around the incident area remains in effect, but will be cancelled by local officials on the morning of November 7, 2016.

¹ 1 barrel (bbl) = 42 gallons

3) Health and Safety

- CTEH continues to provide health and safety oversight, including frac tank operations.

4) Communications

- **ONGOING:** NTSB communications requirements are being implemented for parties involved in the incident investigation. EPA continues to coordinate press releases with Colonial Pipeline through the JIC.

5) Fuel Supply

- No change in the waiver status

PLANNED RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

- **NEW:** Complete the transfer of product from the frac tanks to Pelham Junction (in progress).
- **NEW:** Complete demobilization.